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optically, capacitively or inductively coupled by telemetric devices using batteries or other energy storage means. The electrical supply of the measuring element can here be provided optionally by a d.c. or a.c. connection.

Basically, the device according to the invention can be used for all screw joints in the state of the art, that is, for screw joints with force-applying elements made of wood, metal or plastic. For fixing these screw joints, any elements from the state of the art can be used likewise, that is, recessed-head, slotted-head, hexagon, square or Allen-key bolts or the like.

Further advantageous developments of the present invention are provided in the other dependent claims.

The invention will now be described with the aid of several figures. They show:

Fig. 1 part of the device for adjusting the axial force in a position placed on a screw joint,

Figs. 2a and 2b details of a component for fixing rotatable force-applying elements,

Fig. 3 a detail of a contact pin for electrical contacting of a washer,

Figs. 4a and 4b views of a device according to the invention for adjusting the

axial force,

Figs. 5¢ and 5b details of the electrical connection between a contact pin and an indicator according to the invention, and

Fig. 6 various possible ways of electrically connecting a component for fixing a rotatable force-applying element, to an indicator according to the invention.

Fig. 1 shows a screw joint with part of a device 1 for adjusting and/or testing the axial force in screw joints, the device including a check device for limiting an axial force operating between two force-applying elements of the screw joint. The screw joint is produced by a bolt shank 9 at the upper end of which is mounted a hexagon bolt head 7 and at the lower end of which a nut 8 is screwed onto a thread. Between the nut and the bolt head 7 are (listed from the bottom up) a component 11a, a component 11b, an ancillary washer 12, an annular measuring element with piezoresistive coating, and a further ancillary washer. The axial force applied by turning the bolt head 7 therefore serves

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